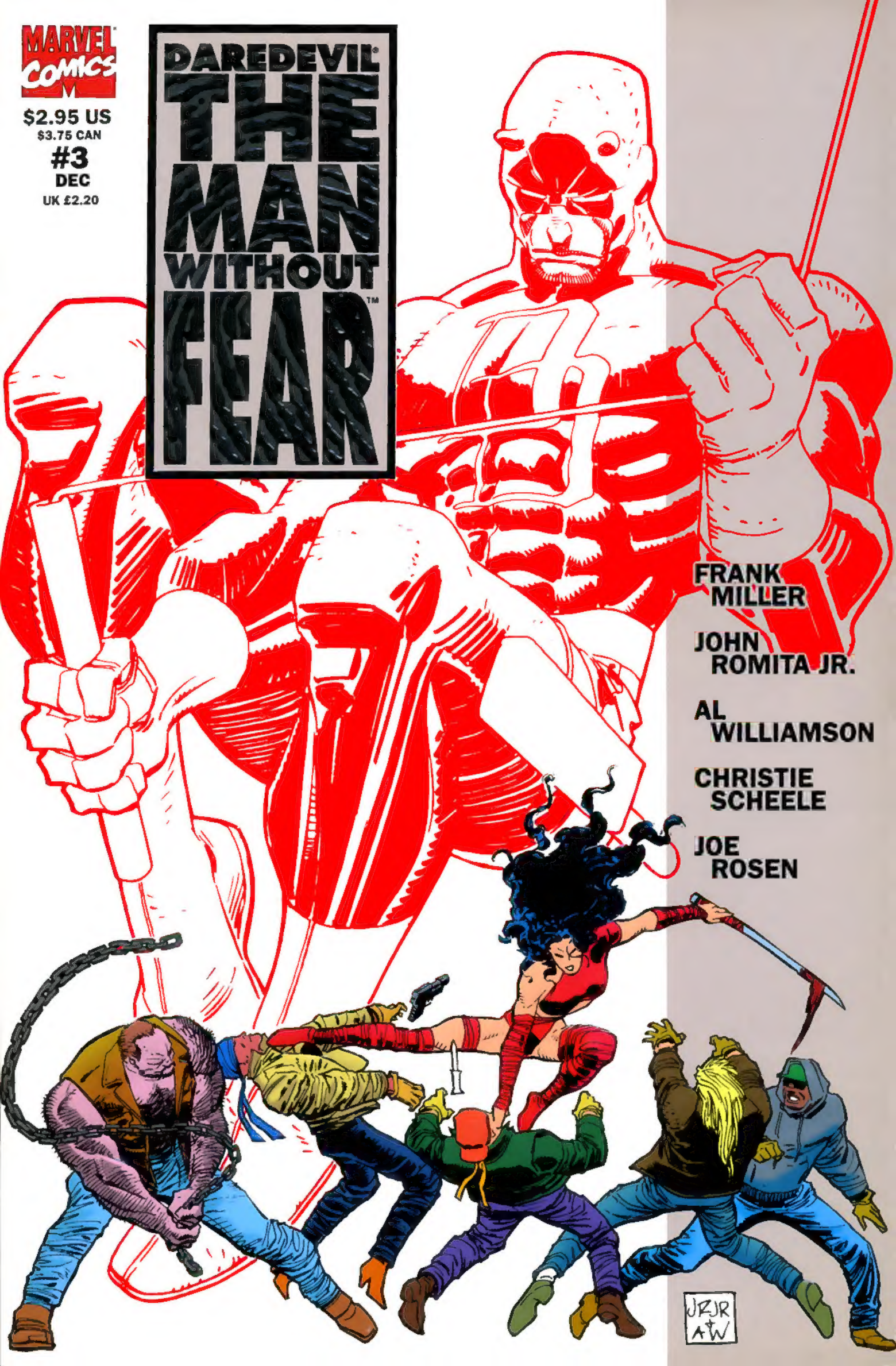
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DAREDEVIL
THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR™
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STAN LEE PRESENTS...

DAREDEVIL THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR

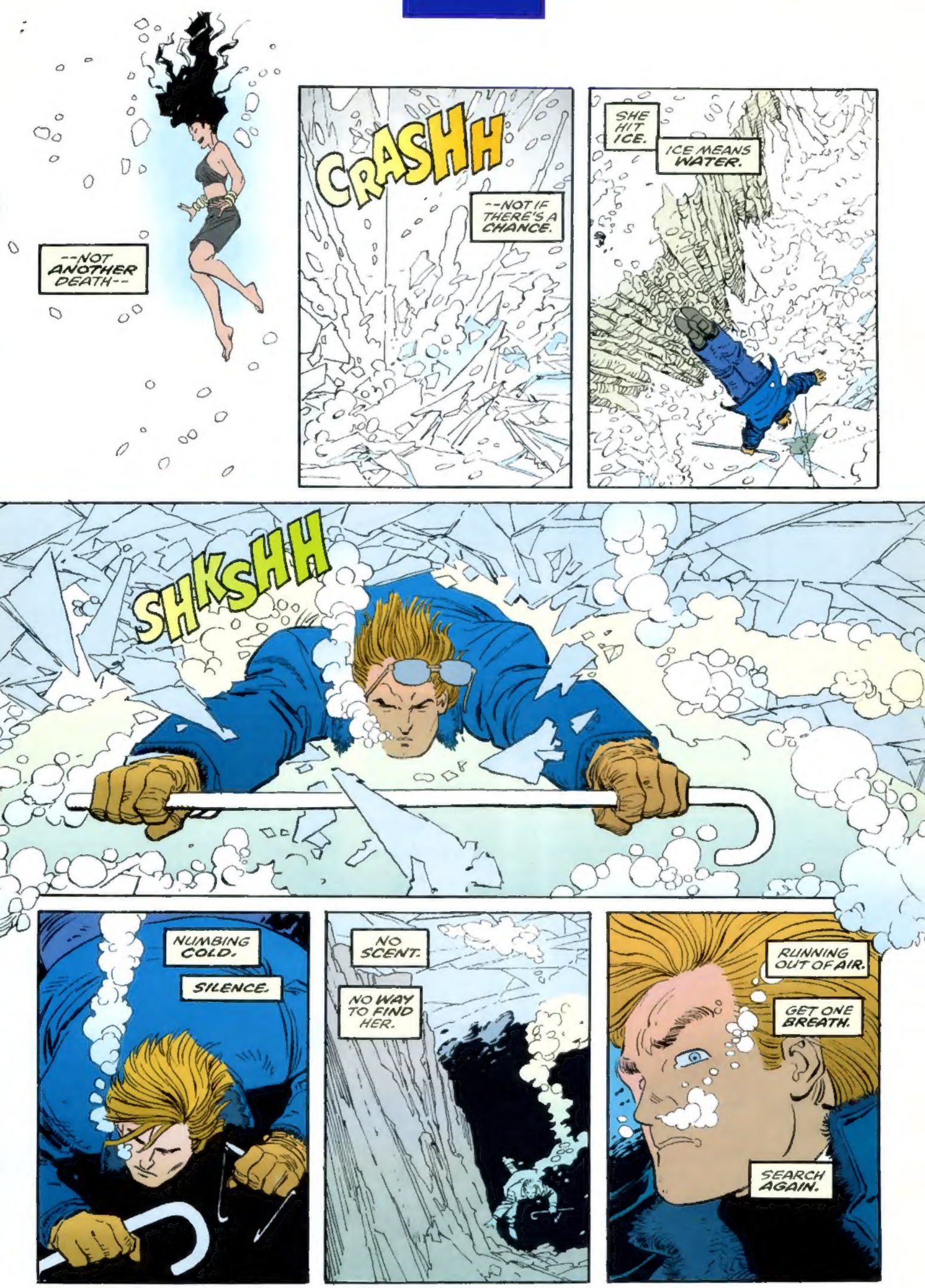
Now we've come to the center of our spectacular limited series, and the middle portion of Matt Murdock's life. The good part —Elektra! Now, for the first time, our Daredevil fans will get to see Frank Miller, John Romita Jr., Al Williamson, and Co. bring forth the very first moments of Matt's greatest love, and future nemesis. We knew this issue would be special from the very first page to the last. And the last, well, there's still much more of Daredevil's secret origin to tell. Read on!

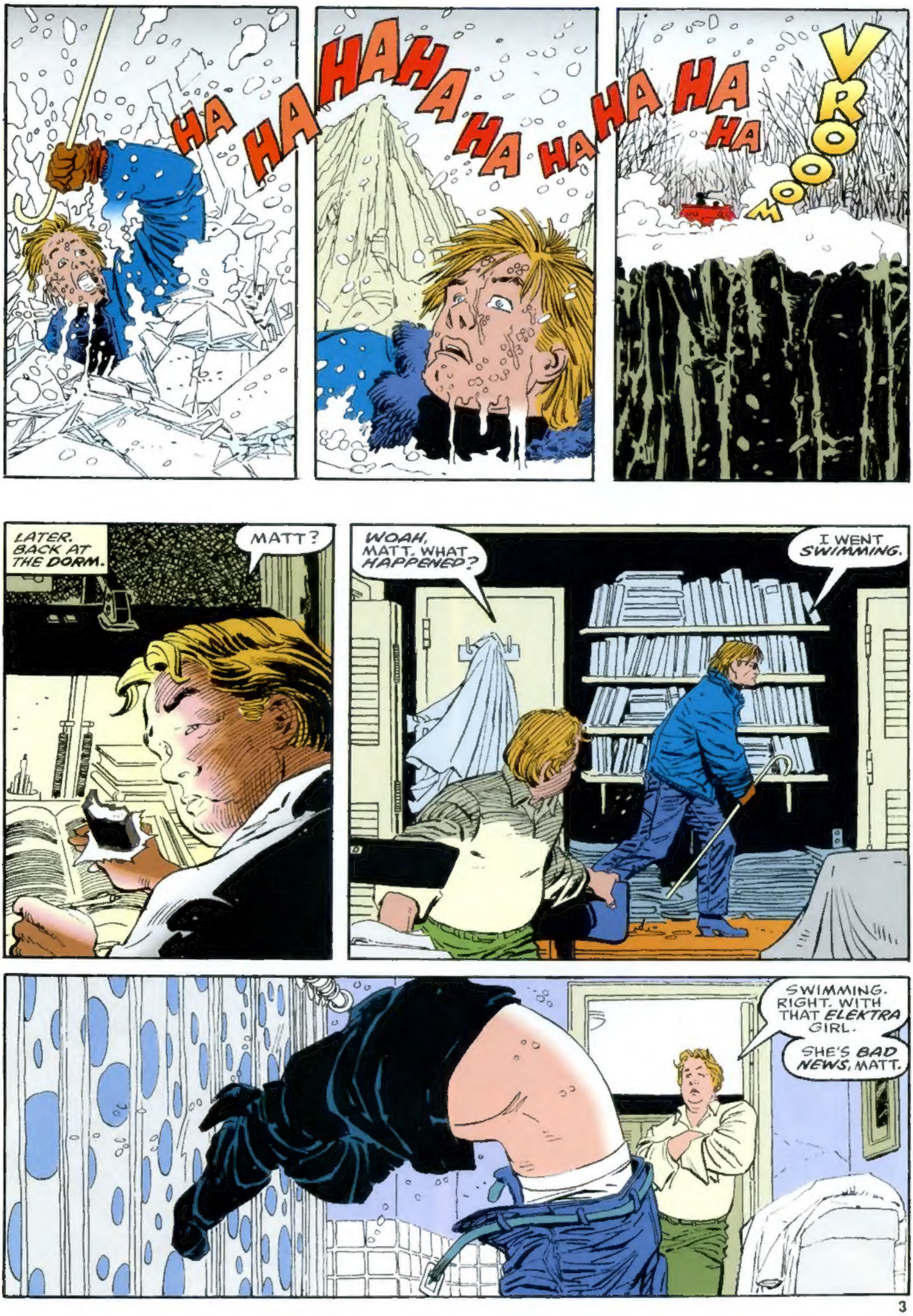
-Ralph & Pat

LAST ISSUE:

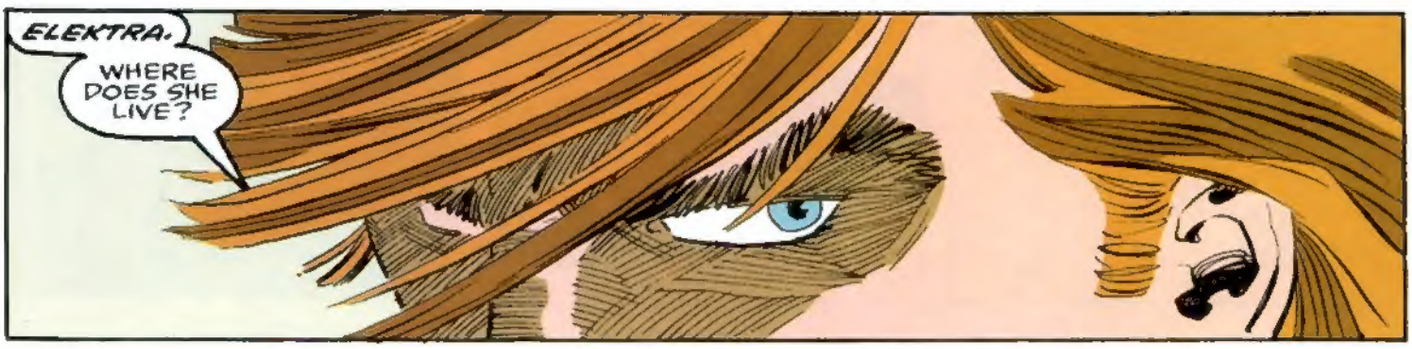
Young Matt Murdock has laid his late father to rest, and taken revenge on the thugs who murdered him. He attends Columbia University Law School and befriends fellow student Franklin "Foggy" Nelson, secretly aiding Foggy's struggle against a bully. Soon after, Matt has his first tantalizing encounter with Elektra—the woman who will change his life. Now, atop a snowy mountain in New York State, Matt confronts the dark-haired beauty he's chased, face-to-face.

NO--


--NOT ANOTHER DEATH--
CRASHH
--NOT IF THERE'S A CHANCE.
SHE HIT ICE.
ICE MEANS WATER.
SHKSHH
NUMBING COLD.
SILENCE.
NO SCENT.
NO WAY TO FIND HER.
RUNNING OUT OF AIR.
GET ONE BREATH.
SEARCH AGAIN.


HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA
VROOOM
LATER. BACK AT THE DORM.
MATT?
WOAH, MATT. WHAT HAPPENED?
I WENT SWIMMING.
SWIMMING. RIGHT. WITH THAT ELEKTRA GIRL.
SHE'S BAD NEWS, MATT.

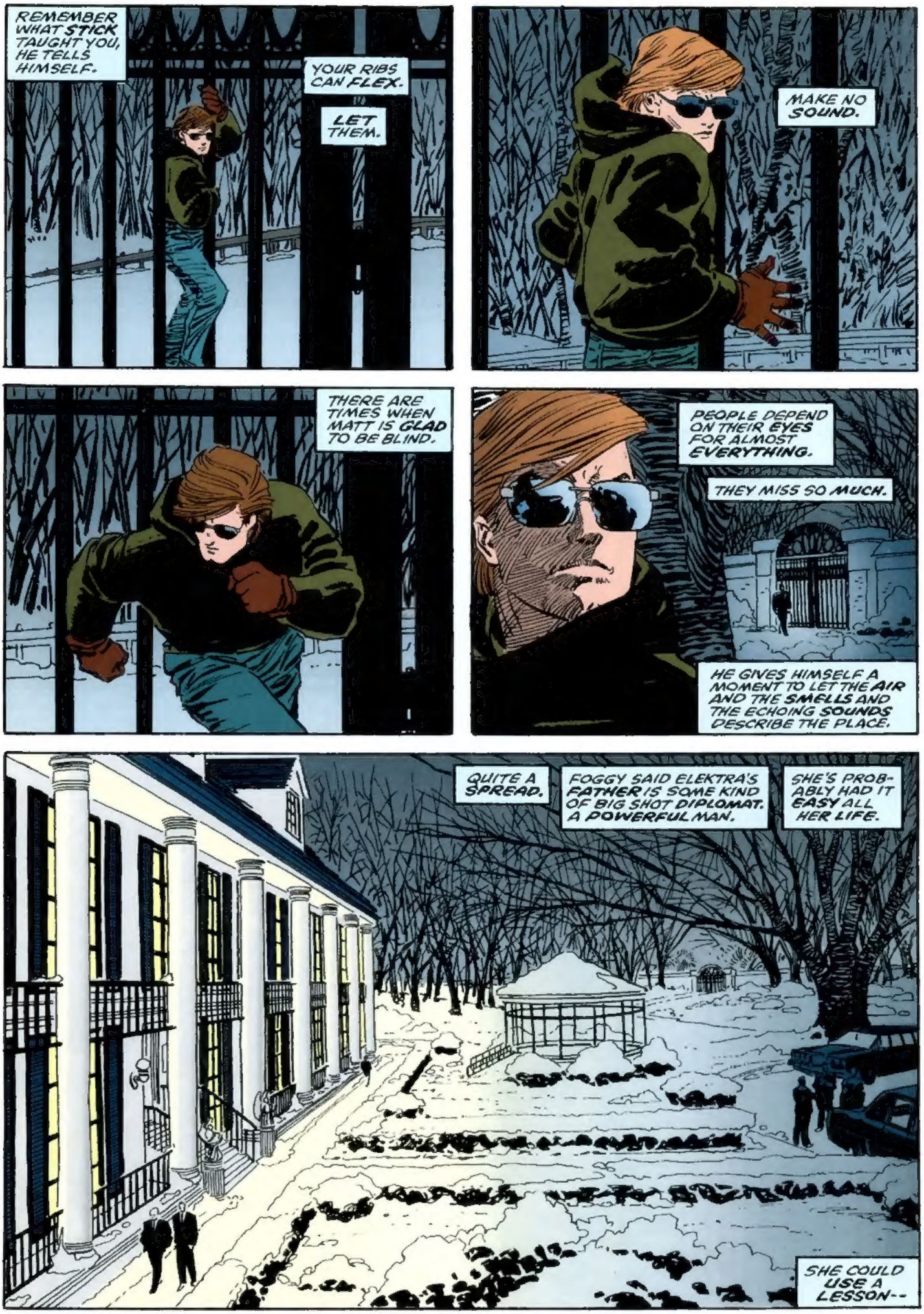
YOU KNOW FLINT'S SKIING ACCIDENT? THE ONE WHERE HE BROKE BOTH HIS ARMS? WELL, YOU DIDN'T HEAR IT FROM ME, BUT HE DIDN'T GET HURT SKIING.
BUZZ TOLD ME FLINT MADE A PASS AT ELEKTRA. AND BEFORE YOU KNEW IT SHE WAS LAUGHING AND THERE HE WAS...
ELEKTRA.


ELEKTRA.
WHERE DOES SHE LIVE?

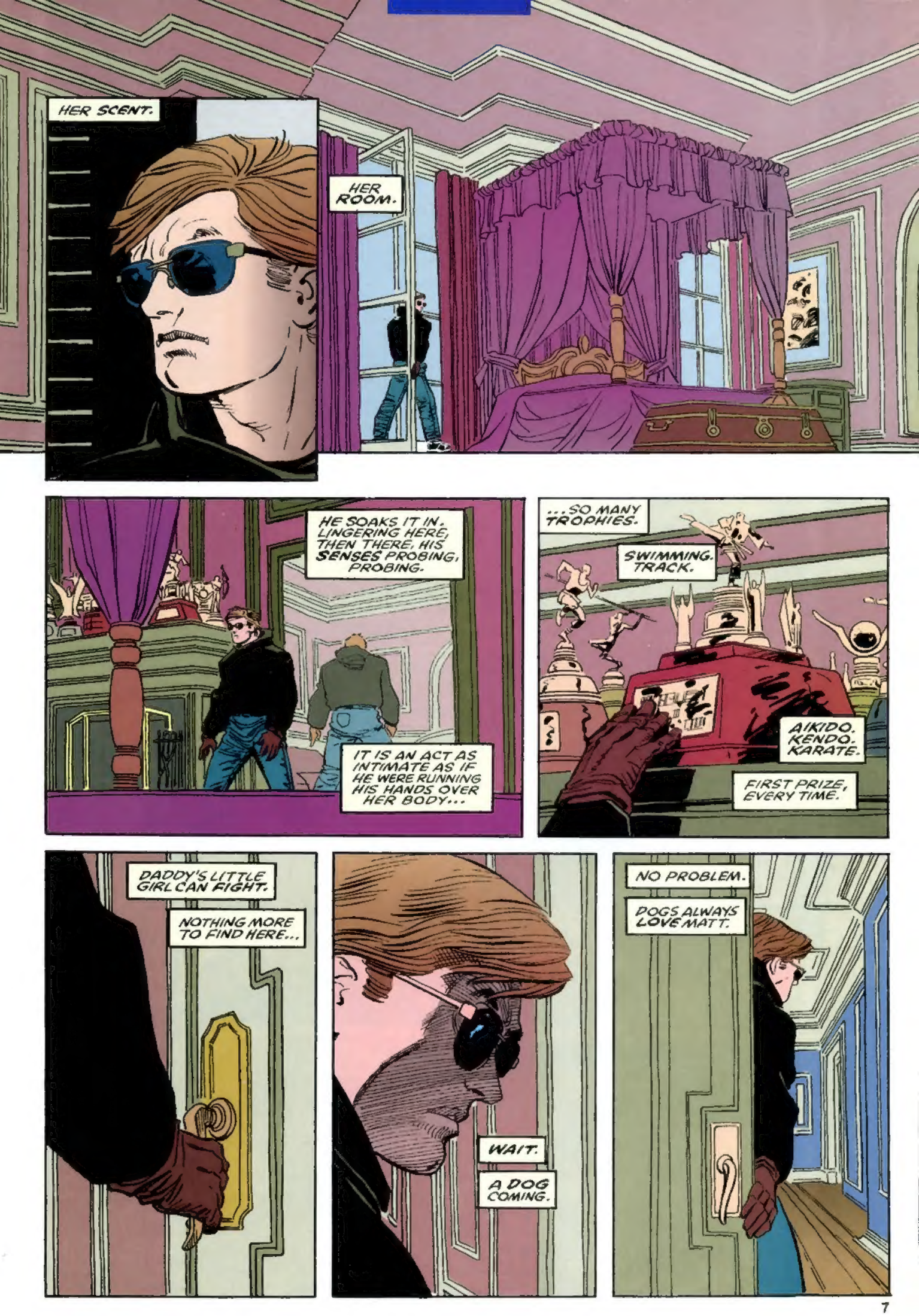
FOGGY KNOWS BETTER THAN TO ARGUE WHEN MATT'S LIKE THIS.
AND SO, AT A RESIDENCE OUTSIDE OF TOWN...

...A VERY WELL-GUARDED RESIDENCE...

...MATT MAKES HIS MOVE.


REMEMBER WHAT STICK TAUGHT YOU, HE TELLS HIMSELF.
YOUR RIBS CAN FLEX.
LET THEM.
MAKE NO SOUND.
THERE ARE TIMES WHEN MATT IS GLAD TO BE BLIND.
PEOPLE DEPEND ON THEIR EYES FOR ALMOST EVERYTHING.
THEY MISS SO MUCH.
HE GIVES HIMSELF A MOMENT TO LET THE AIR AND THE SMELLS AND THE ECHOING SOUNDS DESCRIBE THE PLACE.
QUITE A SPREAD.
FOGGY SAID ELEKTRA'S FATHER IS SOME KIND OF BIG SHOT DIPLOMAT. A POWERFUL MAN.
SHE'S PROBABLY HAD IT EASY ALL HER LIFE.
SHE COULD USE A LESSON--

--A LESSON THIS BOY FROM THE TENEMENTS OF HELL'S KITCHEN IS READY TO TEACH.
SHE'S NOT RIGHT ABOUT MATT, EITHER. HE'S NOT A WILD MAN.
HE CAN CONTROL THAT PART OF HIMSELF, THAT CHILDISH MISCHIEF-MAKER, THAT DAREDEVIL...
...THIS, HE THINKS, AS HE MOVES WITH SMOOTH SKILL THAT WOULD PUT A CAT BURGLAR TO SHAME.

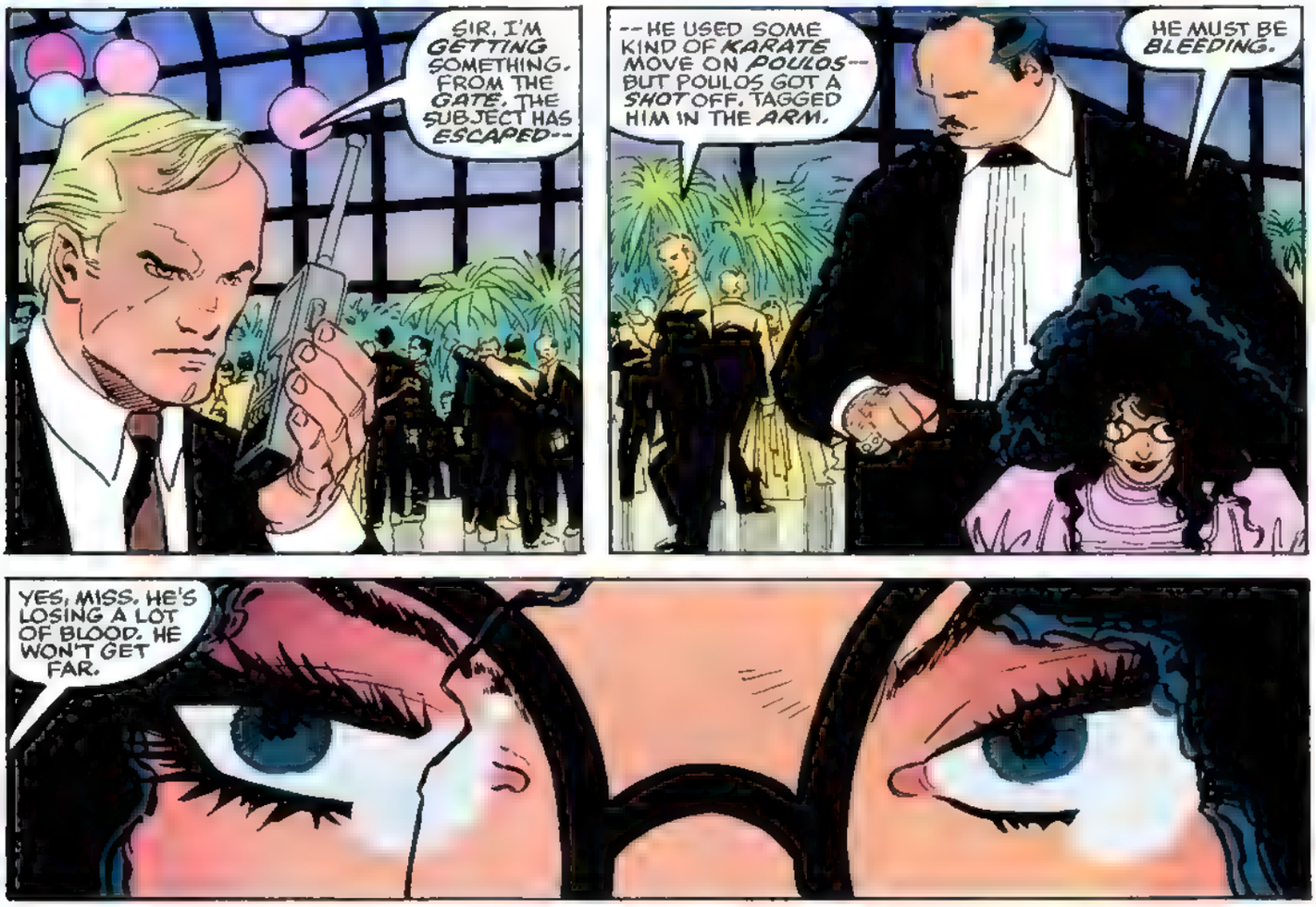

HER SCENT.
HER ROOM.
HE SOAKS IT IN. LINGERING HERE, THEN THERE. HIS SENSES PROBING, PROBING.
IT IS AN ACT AS INTIMATE AS IF HE WERE RUNNING HIS HANDS OVER HER BODY...
...SO MANY TROPHIES.
SWIMMING. TRACK.
AIKIDO. KENDO. KARATE.
FIRST PRIZE, EVERY TIME.
DADDY'S LITTLE GIRL CAN FIGHT.
NOTHING MORE TO FIND HERE...
WAIT.
A DOG COMING.
NO PROBLEM.
DOGS ALWAYS LOVE MATT.

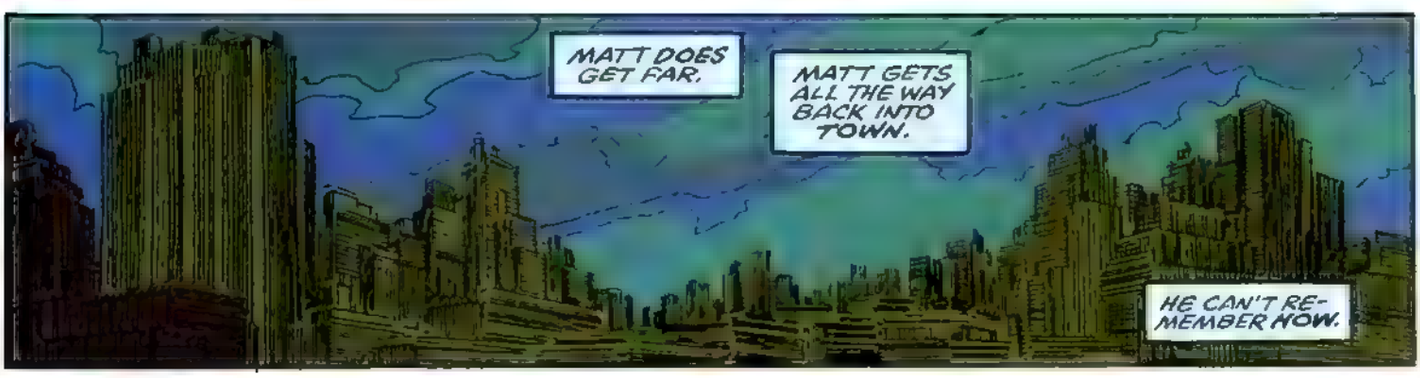
ROWRR
KUKK
KAKK
KLUD
SO MUCH FOR PLAYING IT QUIET.
KASHH
AND NOW, STRANGELY-- MUSIC, DRIFTING UP FROM BELOW...

...PIANO MUSIC, SOMETHING CLASSICAL--AND VERY, VERY DIFFICULT.
BUT SHE MAKES IT SOUND EASY.
IS THERE ANYTHING SHE'S BAD AT?
AND NOW SHATTERING GLASS, A SMALL SOUND--
--IN A VERY BIG ROOM.
KASHH

GASPS OF SURPRISE--
--SPILLED DRINKS--
CRASH
UHNNFF
GOD... NOBODY'S THAT FAST...
...WHO IS THAT GUY?...
SHE BREATHES DEEPLY, SHARPLY.
HE CAN FEEL HER GLANCE.
FOR A MOMENT THAT SEEMS TO GO ON FOREVER, HE CAN'T MOVE.
BRAKA
BRAKA
BRAKA
THEN HE HAS TO.

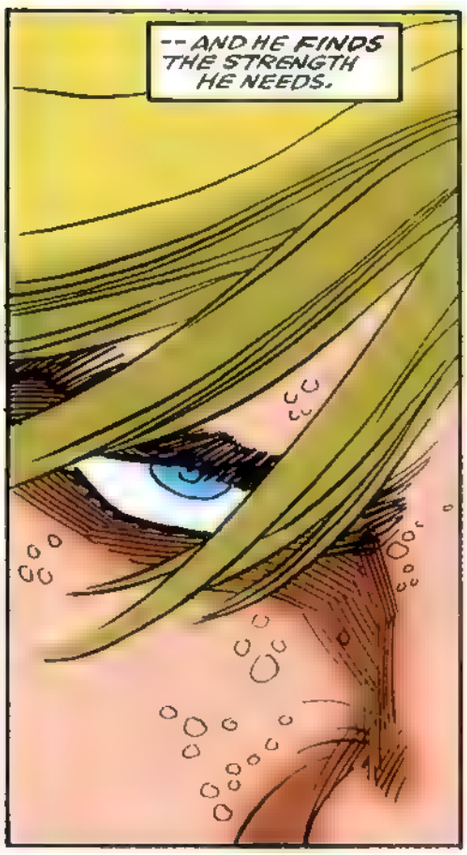
STUPID--
--BROKE THE RULES-- AGAIN--
--MADE A MESS OF THINGS--
--JUST LIKE BEFORE--
--AND, AMIDST THE SHOUTS AND GUNFIRE--
--MATT REALIZES THAT SHE HAS NEVER STOPPED PLAYING.
AND NOW THE MUSIC BUILDS TOWARD A CRESCENDO.
TOWARD CLIMAX.
SEAL THE EXITS! FIND THAT MAN!
I WANT TO KNOW WHO SENT HIM-- AND WHY!
DON'T WORRY, DEAR ELEKTRA. EVERYTHING'S FINE. YOU'RE SAFE.
YES, POPPA.


SIR, I'M GETTING SOMETHING. FROM THE GATE. THE SUBJECT HAS ESCAPED--
--HE USED SOME KIND OF KARATE MOVE ON POULOS-- BUT POULOS GOT A SHOT OFF. TAGGED HIM IN THE ARM.
HE MUST BE BLEEDING.
YES, MISS. HE'S LOSING A LOT OF BLOOD. HE WON'T GET FAR.


MATT DOES GET FAR.
MATT GETS ALL THE WAY BACK INTO TOWN.
HE CAN'T REMEMBER NOW.

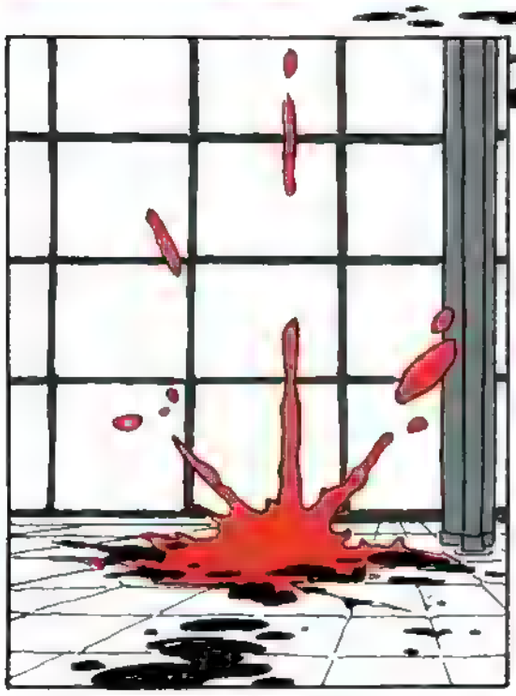
HIS SENSES COME AND GO.
HE HAS NO IDEA HOW MANY TIMES HE FALLS.

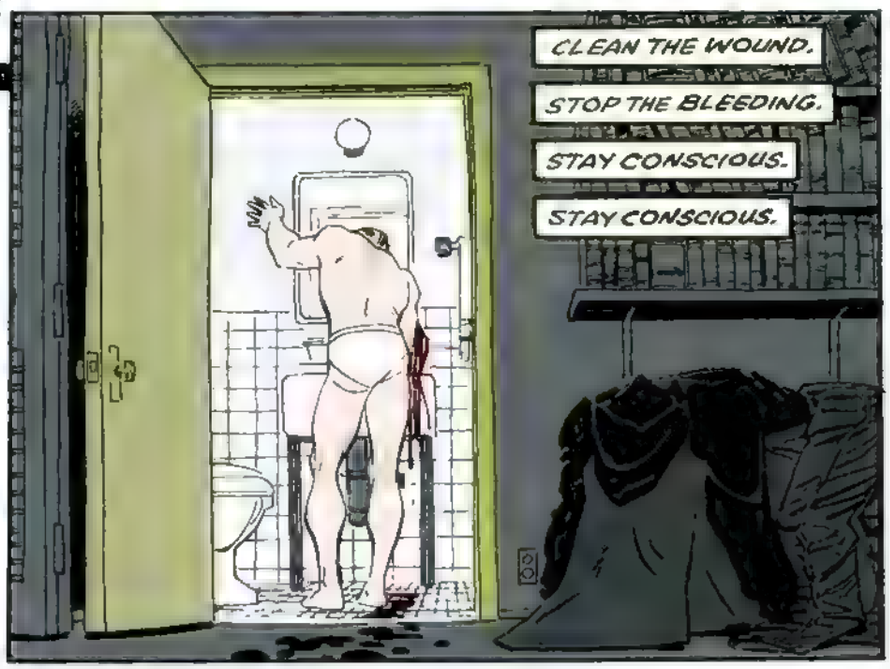
HE CRAWLS DEEP INSIDE HIMSELF.
THROUGH WAVES OF NAUSEA AND CLAMMY, ICY COLD, HE CONCENTRATES--
--CONCENTRATES--

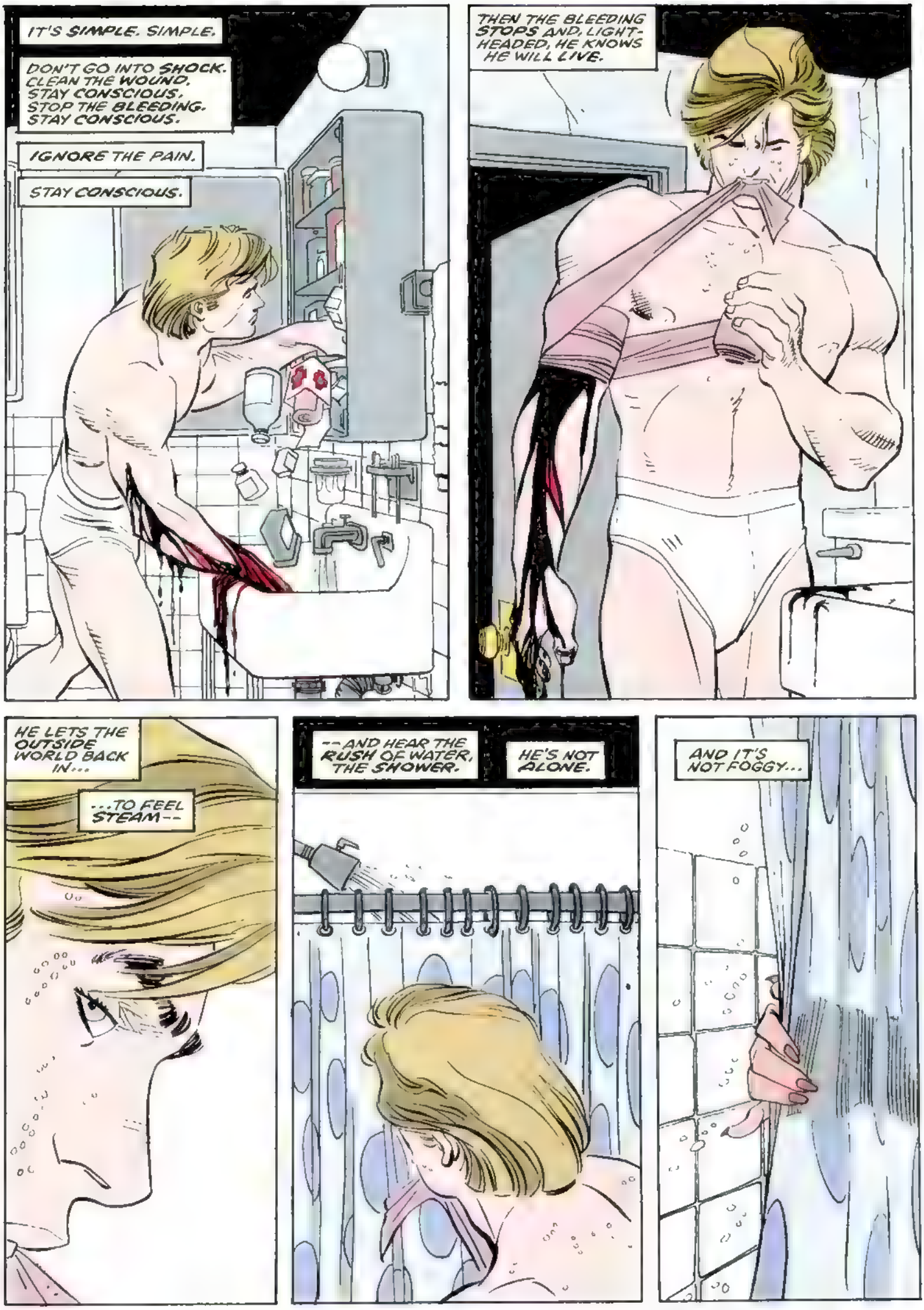

--AND HE FINDS THE STRENGTH HE NEEDS.

TO MAKE IT BACK.

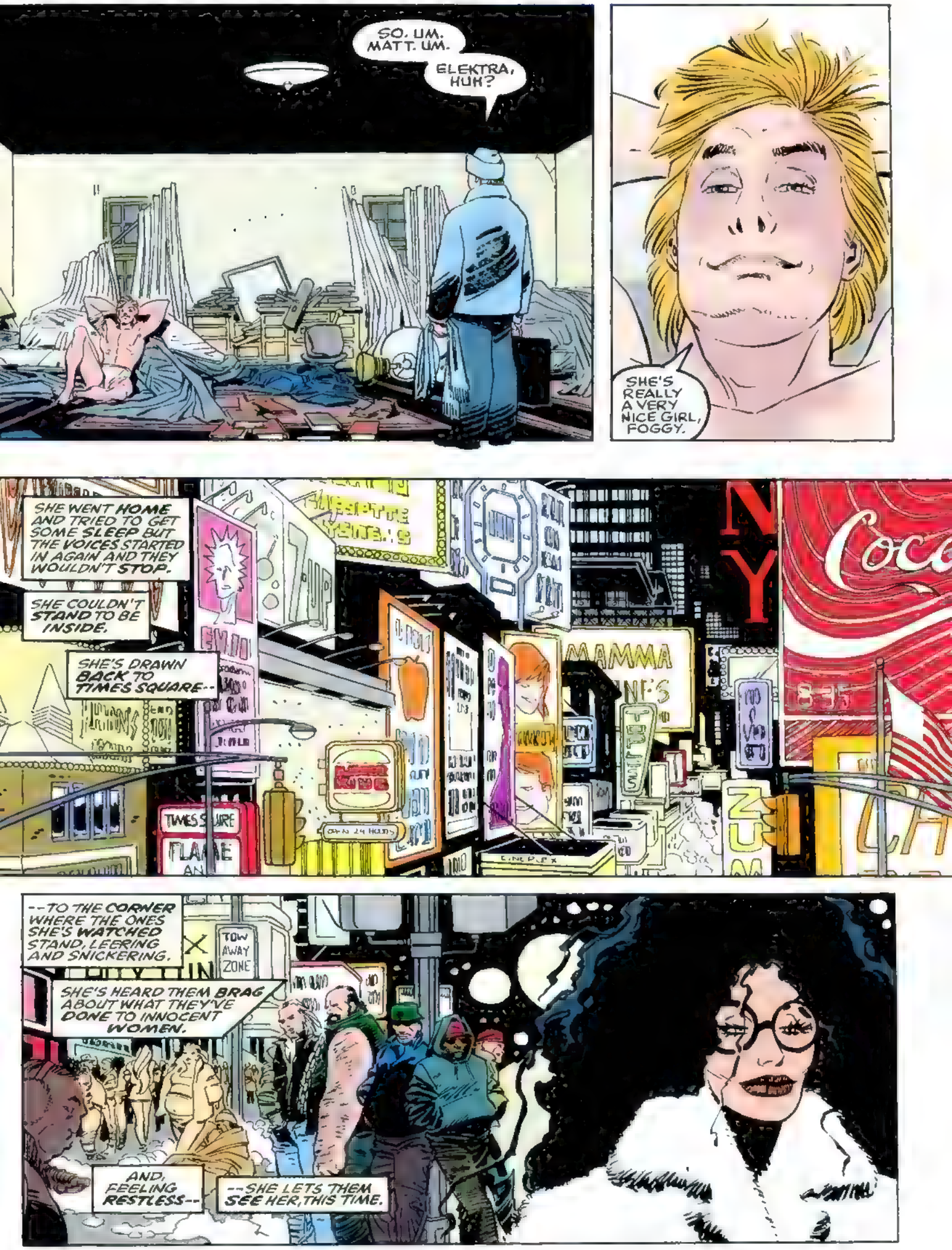
TO THE DORM.

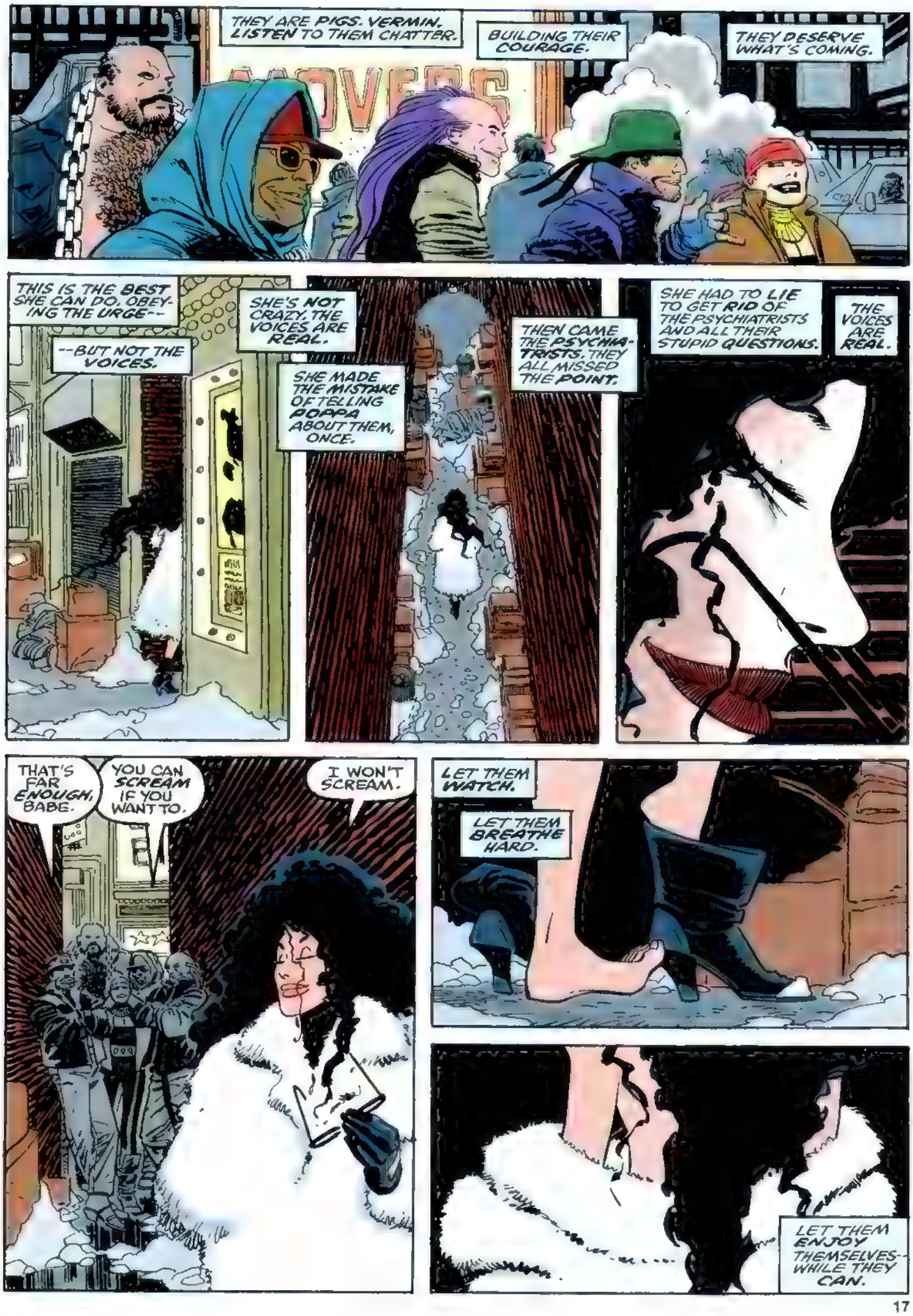


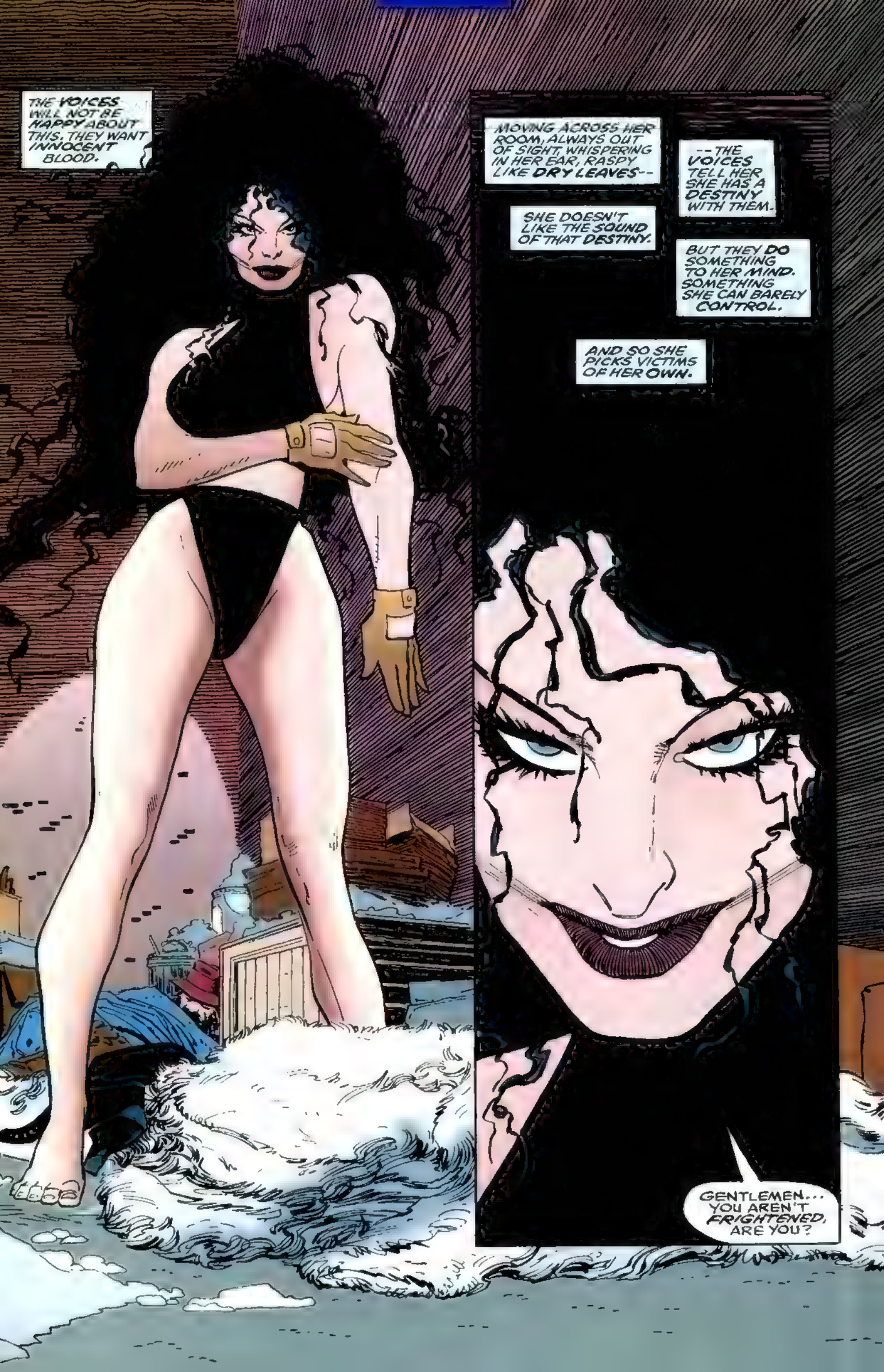

CLEAN THE WOUND.
STOP THE BLEEDING.
STAY CONSCIOUS.
STAY CONSCIOUS.


IT'S SIMPLE. SIMPLE.
DON'T GO INTO SHOCK. CLEAN THE WOUND. STAY CONSCIOUS. STOP THE BLEEDING. STAY CONSCIOUS.
IGNORE THE PAIN.
STAY CONSCIOUS.
THEN THE BLEEDING STOPS AND, LIGHT-HEADED, HE KNOWS HE WILL LIVE.
HE LETS THE OUTSIDE WORLD BACK IN...
...TO FEEL STEAM--
--AND HEAR THE RUSH OF WATER, THE SHOWER.
HE'S NOT ALONE.
AND IT'S NOT FOGGY...

A FEW HOURS LATER.
KLIK KLAKK
YO, MATT! YOU GOT THE CHAIN ON! I CAN'T GET IN! OPEN UP!
KNOCK KNOCK
YO, MATT!
KNOCK KNOCK
OH. HI, FOGGY. JUST GIVE ME A MINUTE.
LATER.
NOT THAT I'M COUNTING, PAL, BUT YOU SAID ONE MINUTE, NOT TWENTY.
WHAT THE DEVIL COULD MATT BE DOING IN THERE?


SO. UM. MATT. UM.
ELEKTRA, HUH?
SHE'S REALLY A VERY NICE GIRL, FOGGY.
SHE WENT HOME AND TRIED TO GET SOME SLEEP BUT THE VOICES STARTED IN AGAIN AND THEY WOULDN'T STOP.
SHE COULDN'T STAND TO BE INSIDE.
SHE'S DRAWN BACK TO TIMES SQUARE--
--TO THE CORNER WHERE THE ONES SHE'S WATCHED STAND, LEERING AND SNICKERING.
SHE'S HEARD THEM BRAG ABOUT WHAT THEY'VE DONE TO INNOCENT WOMEN.
AND, FEELING RESTLESS--
--SHE LETS THEM SEE HER, THIS TIME.

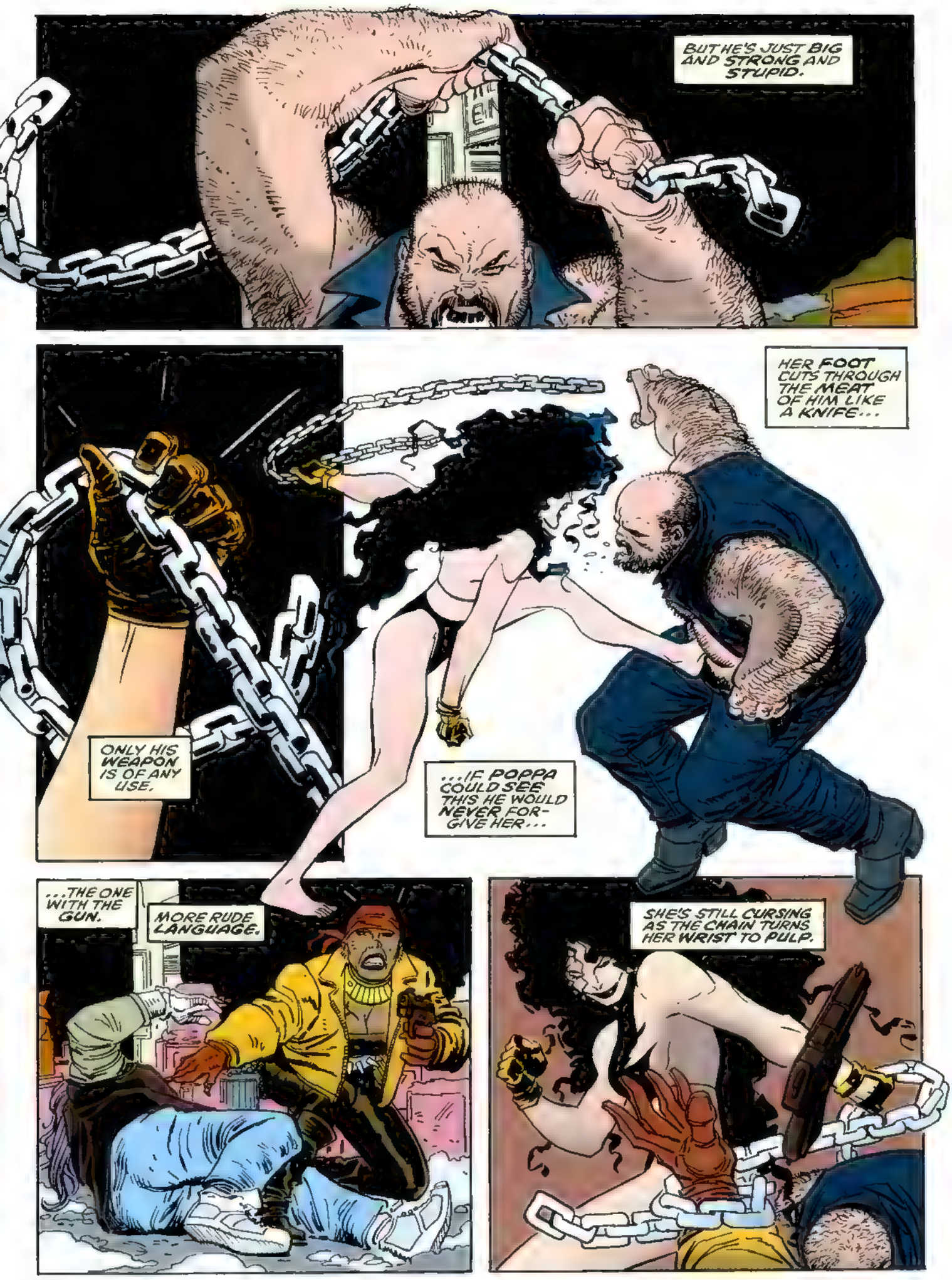

THEY ARE PIGS. VERMIN. LISTEN TO THEM CHATTER.
BUILDING THEIR COURAGE.
THEY DESERVE WHAT'S COMING.
THIS IS THE BEST SHE CAN DO. OBEYING THE URGE--
--BUT NOT THE VOICES.
SHE'S NOT CRAZY. THE VOICES ARE REAL.
SHE MADE THE MISTAKE OF TELLING POPPA ABOUT THEM, ONCE.
THEN CAME THE PSYCHIATRISTS. THEY ALL MISSED THE POINT.
SHE HAD TO LIE TO GET RID OF THE PSYCHIATRISTS AND ALL THEIR STUPID QUESTIONS.
THE VOICES ARE REAL.
THAT'S FAR ENOUGH, BABE.
YOU CAN SCREAM IF YOU WANT TO.
I WON'T SCREAM.
LET THEM WATCH.
LET THEM BREATHE HARD.
LET THEM ENJOY THEMSELVES-- WHILE THEY CAN.


THE VOICES WILL NOT BE HAPPY ABOUT THIS. THEY WANT INNOCENT BLOOD.
MOVING ACROSS HER ROOM, ALWAYS OUT OF SIGHT, WHISPERING IN HER EAR, RASPY LIKE DRY LEAVES--
--THE VOICES TELL HER SHE HAS A DESTINY WITH THEM.
SHE DOESN'T LIKE THE SOUND OF THAT DESTINY.
BUT THEY DO SOMETHING TO HER MIND. SOMETHING SHE CAN BARELY CONTROL.
AND SO SHE PICKS VICTIMS OF HER OWN.
GENTLEMEN... YOU AREN'T FRIGHTENED, ARE YOU?

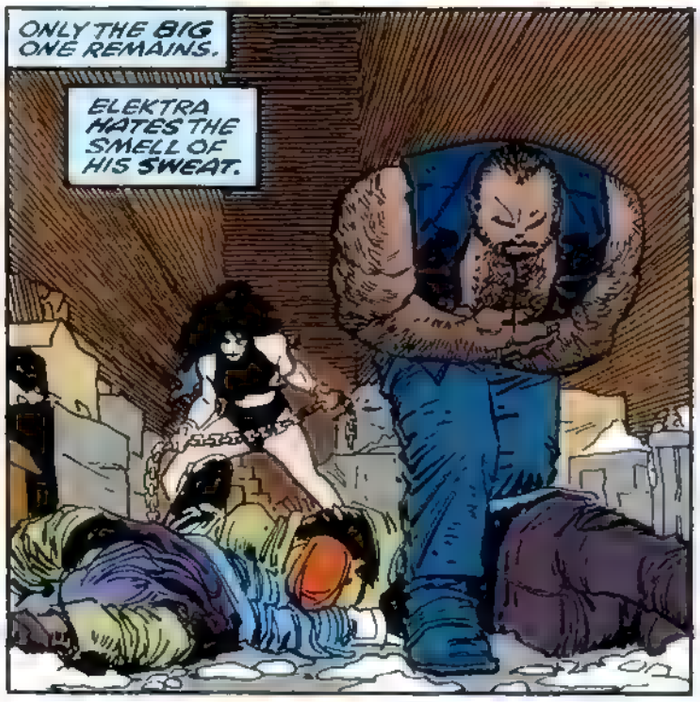
CRAZY UPTOWN BROAD.
OUT FOR FUN.
WE'LL SHOW YOU FUN.
YES, SHOW ME.
DON'T BE NICE ABOUT IT.
SNIKK
NO!
CLOSER, NOW. CLOSER.
IT'S GONNA HURT. IT'S GONNA HURT.
YES... OH, YES...

...YES. IT'S GOING TO HURT.
YOU'LL BE SCREAMING--
CRUNCH!
AAAGG
KUKK
VERTEBRAE SNAP.
LIFE LEAVES THIS ONE WITHOUT A WHISPER.
CRAZY--
I'M TAKING NO CHANCES!
CHINK CHKCHAKK
BLAM BLAM
THIS ONE'S BODY TAKES THE BULLETS.
TWO DOWN, SO EASILY.
GLAA

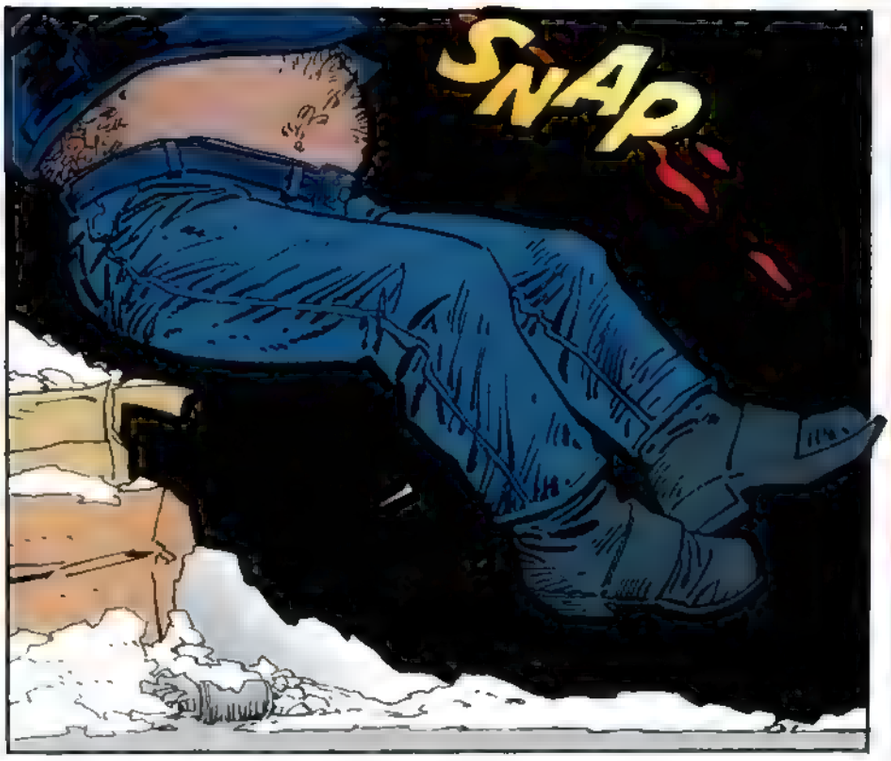
AAAA
GOT YOU--
OOF!
YAAG
CHINGG
CHUKK
OH, NO--
SHE GOT--
SHE GOT--
THE ONE WITH THE CHAIN CALLS HER AN INDESCRIBABLE NAME.
SHE HOPES HE WILL PROVE TO BE A CHALLENGE.


BUT HE'S JUST BIG AND STRONG AND STUPID.
HER FOOT CUTS THROUGH THE MEAT OF HIM LIKE A KNIFE...
ONLY HIS WEAPON IS OF ANY USE.
...IF POPPA COULD SEE THIS HE WOULD NEVER FORGIVE HER...
...THE ONE WITH THE GUN.
MORE RUDE LANGUAGE.
SHE'S STILL CURSING AS THE CHAIN TURNS HER WRIST TO PULP.

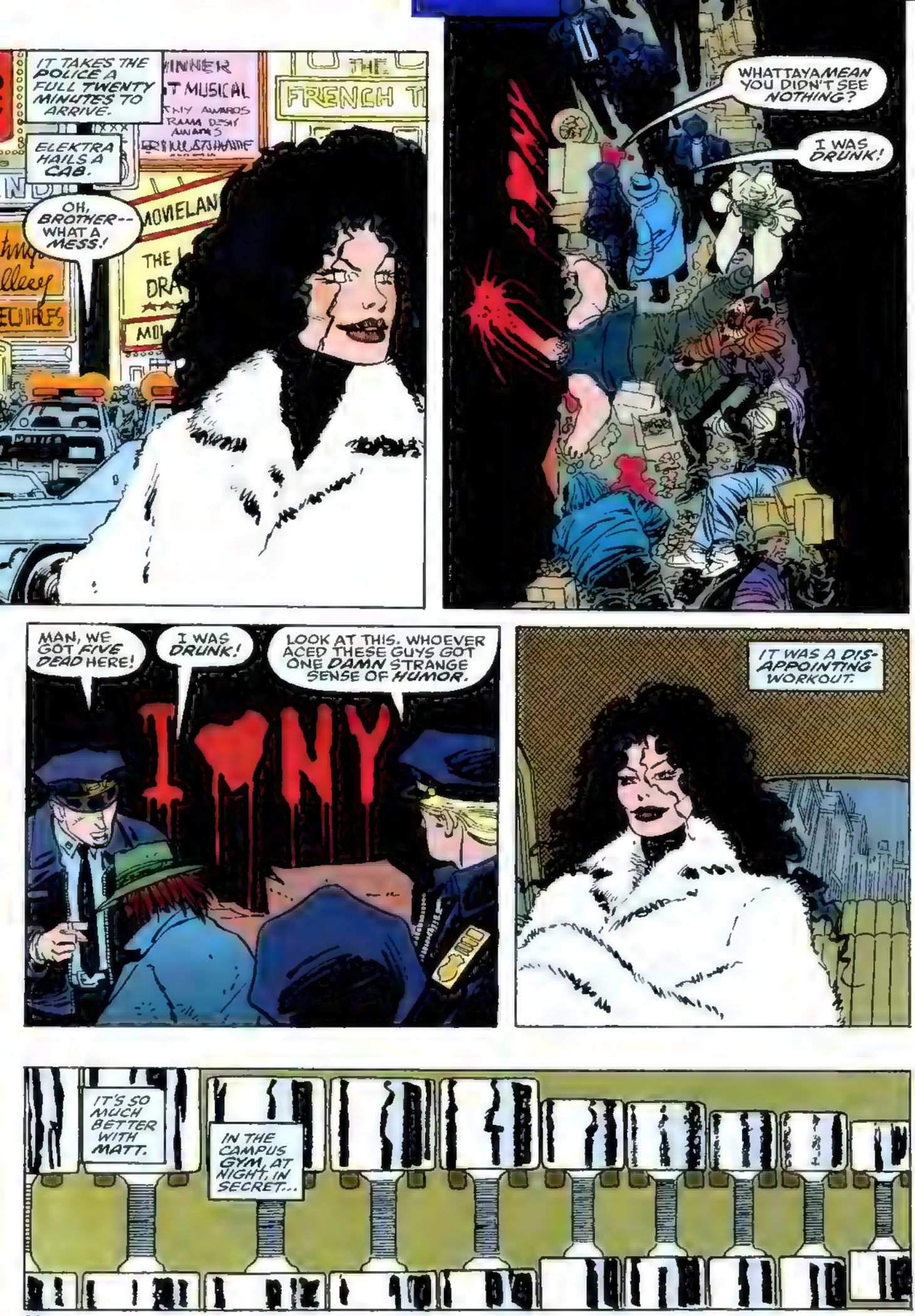
THEN IT'S A SIMPLE MATTER OF SHOVING SHARP BONE INTO SOFT BRAIN.
A NOVICE COULD DO IT.

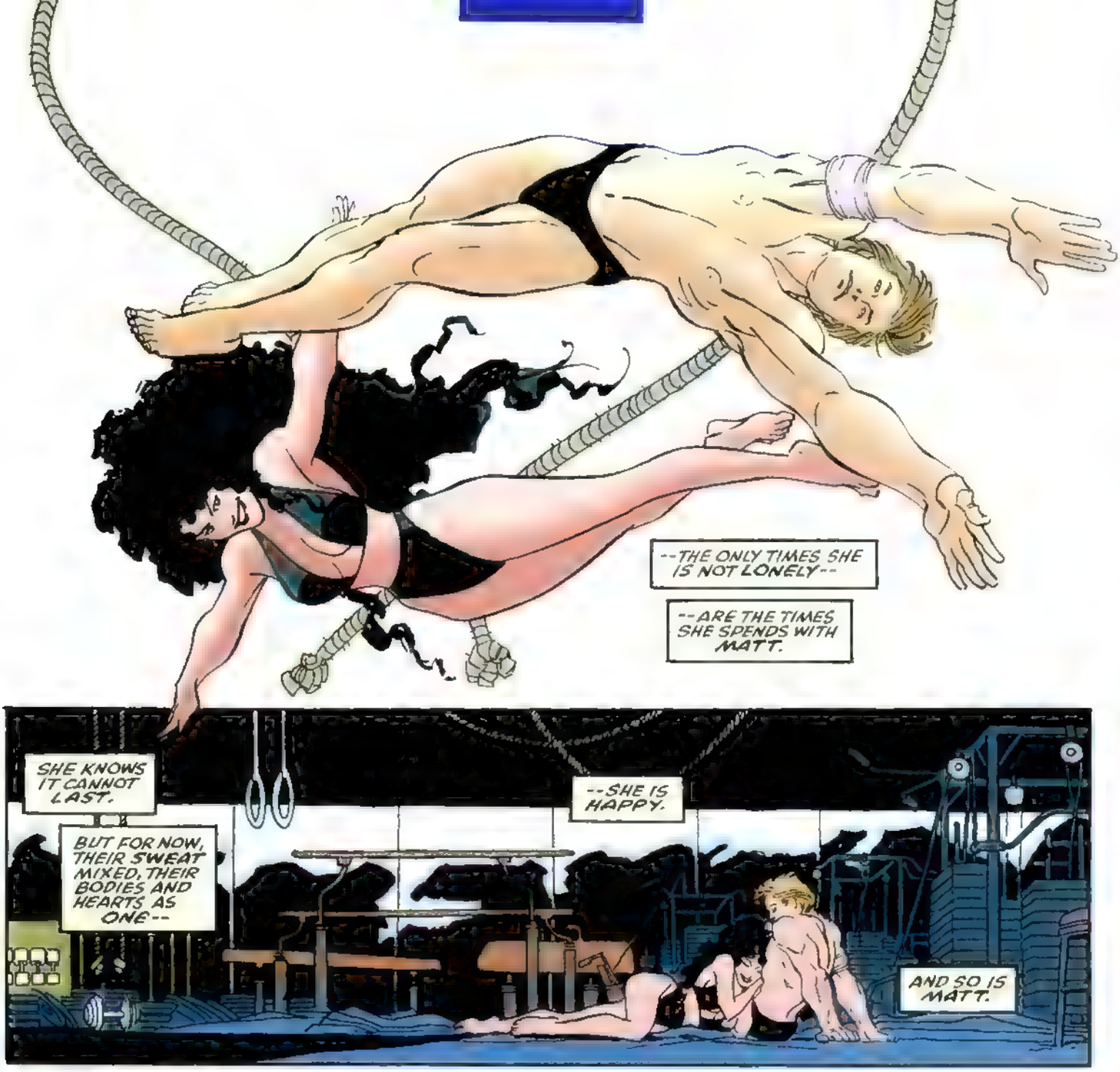

ONLY THE BIG ONE REMAINS.
ELEKTRA HATES THE SMELL OF HIS SWEAT.

CHING

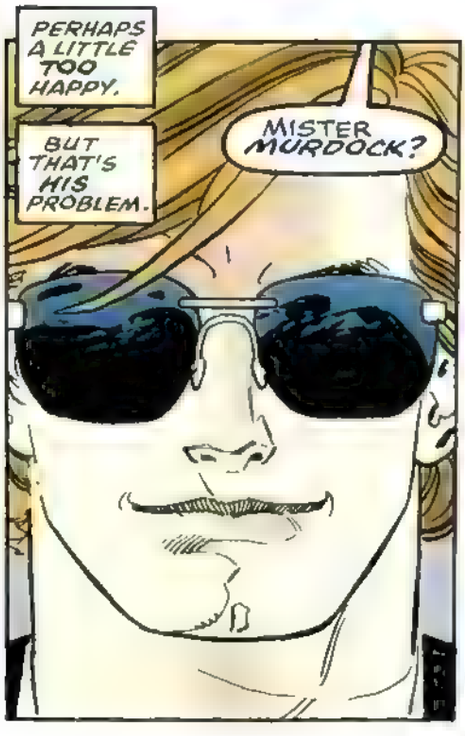

SNAP

A FEW LAST GURGLING SOUNDS AND THE ALLEY GOES QUIET.


IT TAKES THE POLICE A FULL TWENTY MINUTES TO ARRIVE.
ELEKTRA HAILS A CAB.
OH, BROTHER-- WHAT A MESS!
WHATTAYA MEAN YOU DIDN'T SEE NOTHING?
I WAS DRUNK!
MAN, WE GOT FIVE DEAD HERE!
I WAS DRUNK!
LOOK AT THIS. WHOEVER ACED THESE GUYS GOT ONE DAMN STRANGE SENSE OF HUMOR.
I ♥ NY
IT WAS A DIS-APPOINTING WORKOUT.
IT'S SO MUCH BETTER WITH MATT.
IN THE CAMPUS GYM, AT NIGHT, IN SECRET...

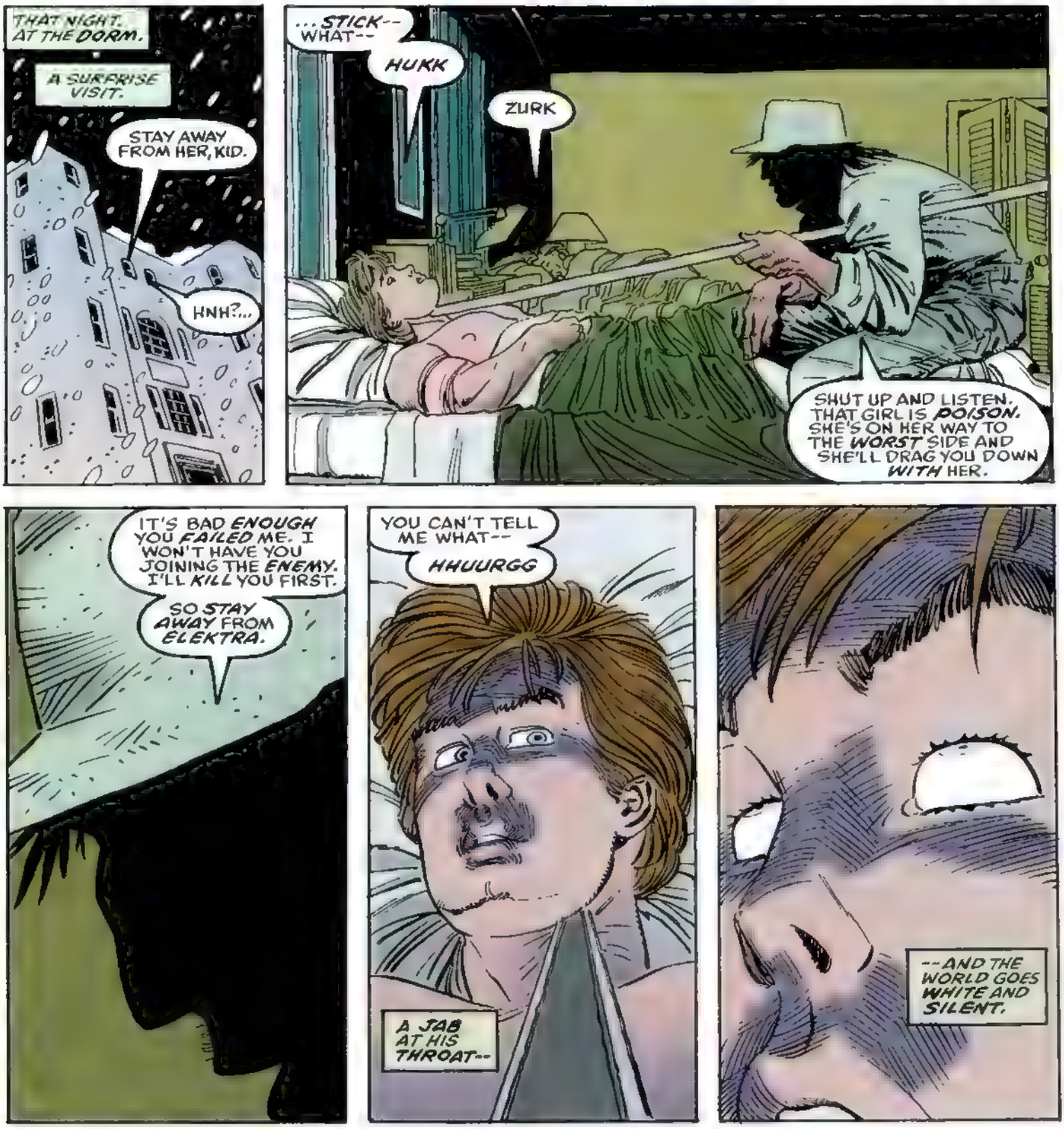

--THE ONLY TIMES SHE IS NOT LONELY--
--ARE THE TIMES SHE SPENDS WITH MATT.

SHE KNOWS IT CANNOT LAST.
BUT FOR NOW, THEIR SWEAT MIXED, THEIR BODIES AND HEARTS AS ONE--
--SHE IS HAPPY.
AND SO IS MATT.

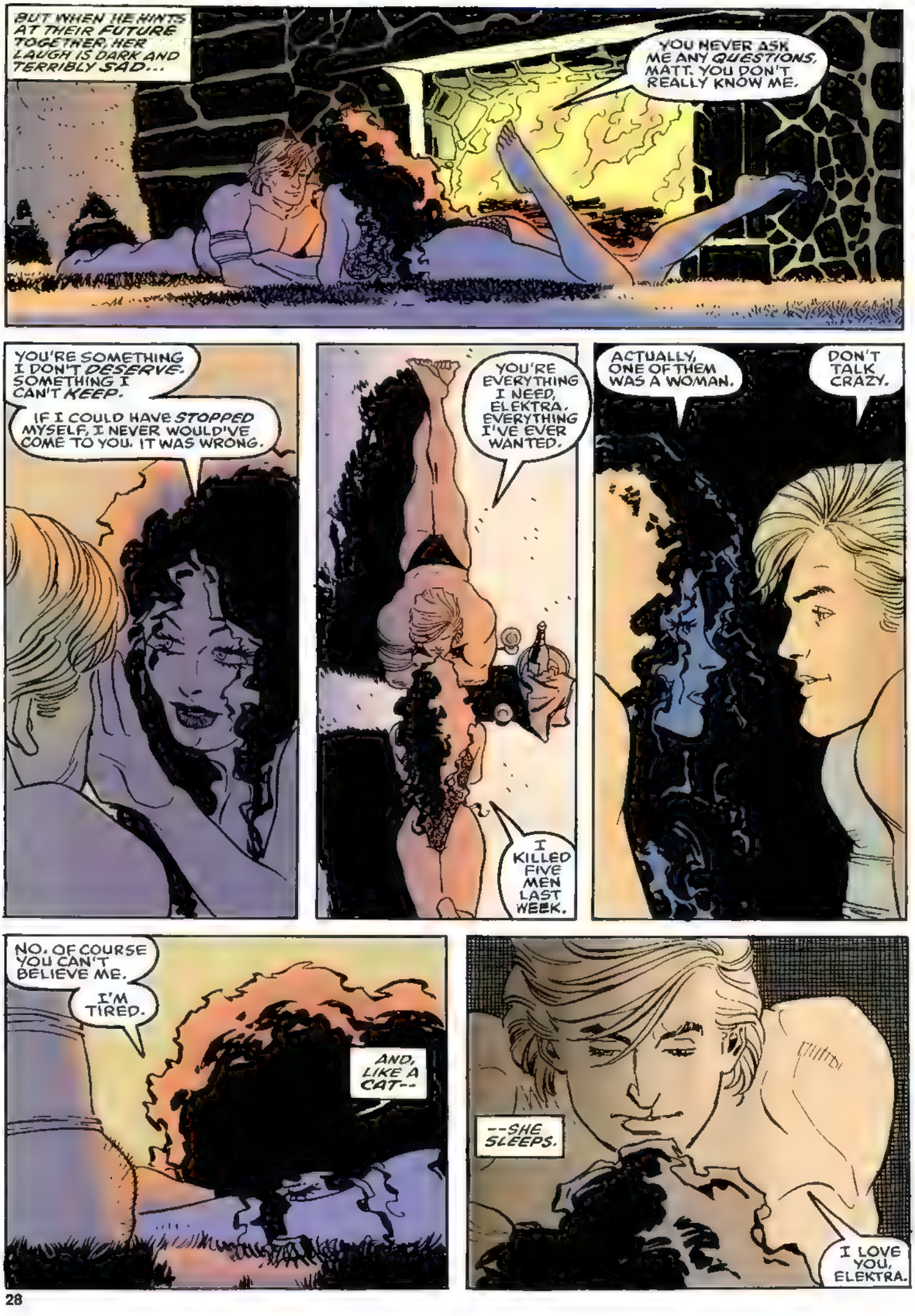

PERHAPS A LITTLE TOO HAPPY.
BUT THAT'S HIS PROBLEM.
MISTER MURDOCK?

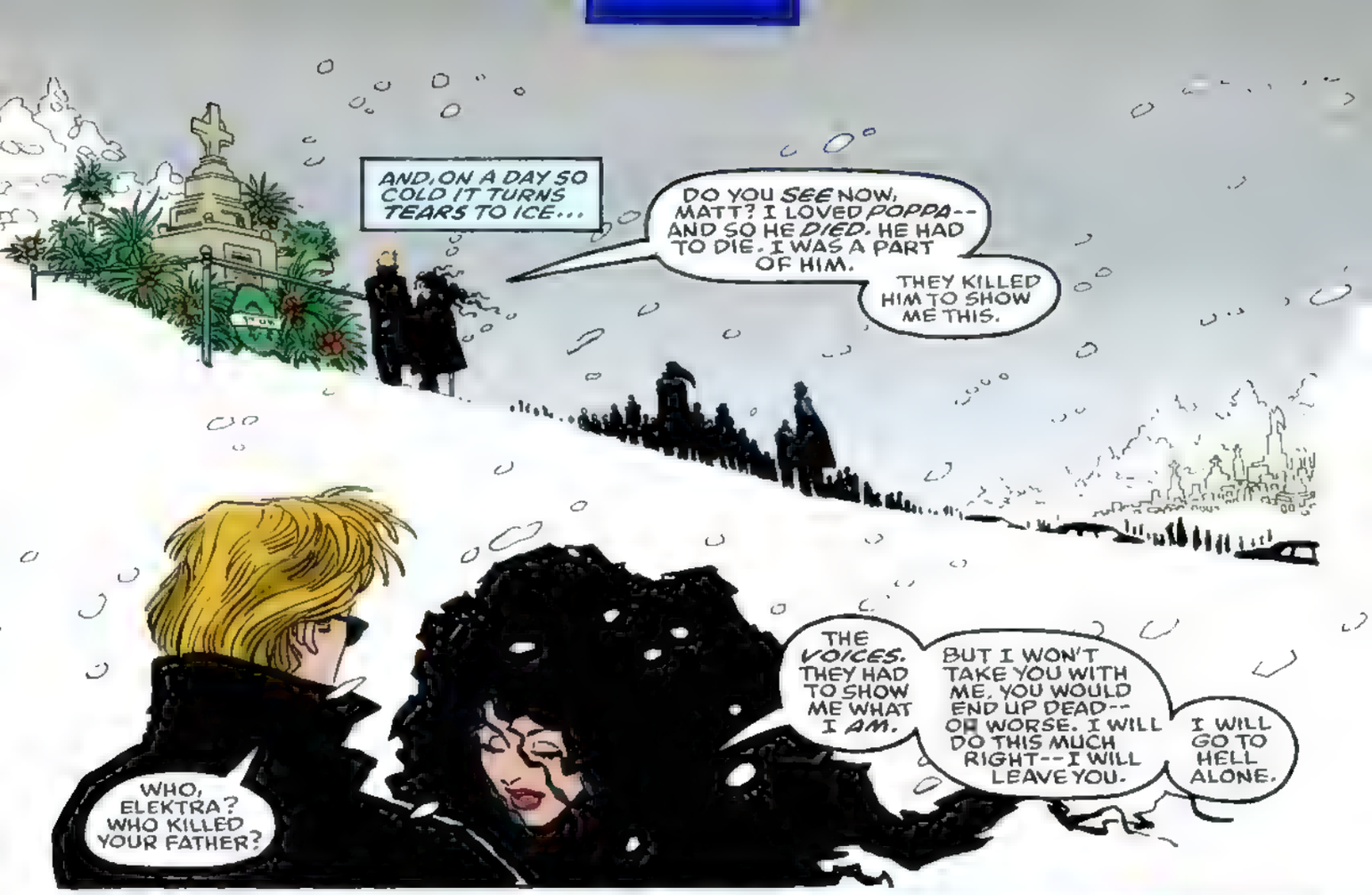
I ASKED YOU A QUESTION, MISTER MURDOCK.

MURDOCK-- ARE YOU LISTENING?
MATT. I THINK YOU'D BETTER ANSWER HIM...

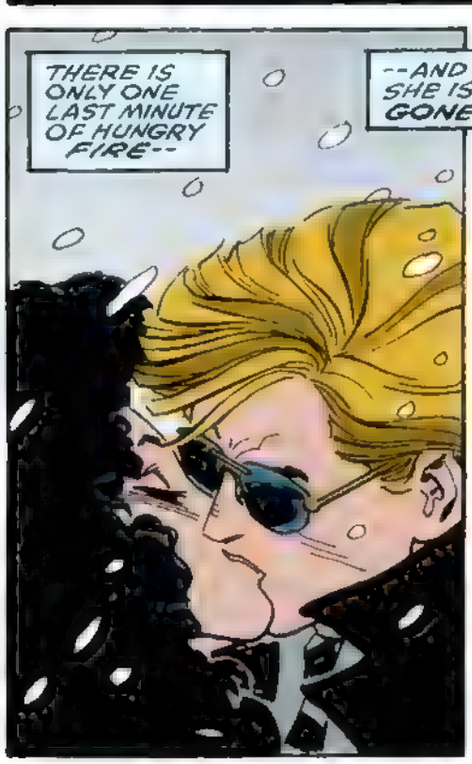

THAT NIGHT, AT THE DORM.
A SURPRISE VISIT.
STAY AWAY FROM HER, KID.
HNH?...
...STICK-- WHAT--
HUKK
ZURK
SHUT UP AND LISTEN. THAT GIRL IS POISON. SHE'S ON HER WAY TO THE WORST SIDE AND SHE'LL DRAG YOU DOWN WITH HER.
IT'S BAD ENOUGH YOU FAILED ME. I WON'T HAVE YOU JOINING THE ENEMY. I'LL KILL YOU FIRST.
SO STAY AWAY FROM ELEKTRA.
YOU CAN'T TELL ME WHAT--
HHUURGG
A JAB AT HIS THROAT--
--AND THE WORLD GOES WHITE AND SILENT.
AND WHEN HE WAKES, MATT CAN ONLY WONDER-- WAS IT A DREAM?
YES. IT HAD TO BE A DREAM. HOW COULD ELEKTRA BE EVIL?...

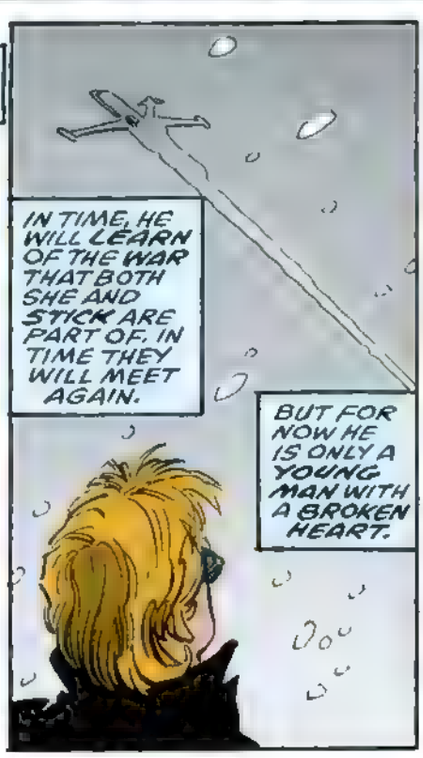
...NO. THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE. SHE'S AN ANGEL.
SHE'S THE PERFECT MATE FOR HIM.
HIS LAUGHING, DANCING PLAYMATE.
HIS WILD, RECKLESS, PASSIONATE LOVER.

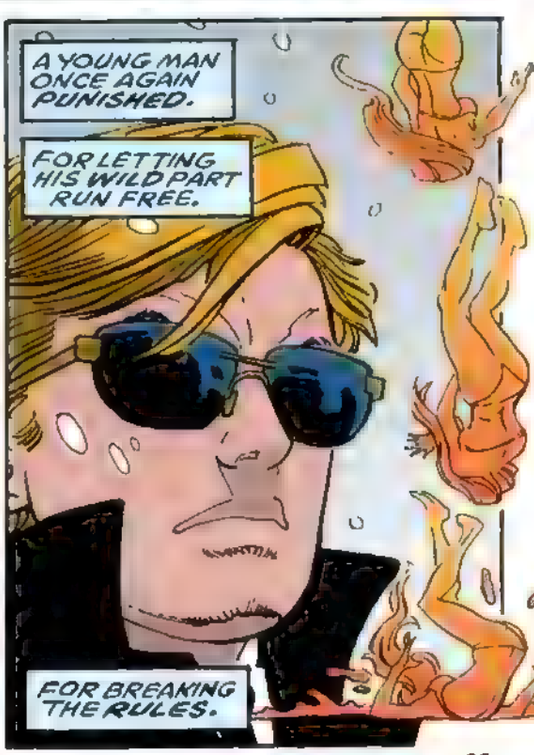

BUT WHEN HE HINTS AT THEIR FUTURE TOGETHER, HER LAUGH IS DARK AND TERRIBLY SAD...
YOU NEVER ASK ME ANY QUESTIONS, MATT. YOU DON'T REALLY KNOW ME.
YOU'RE SOMETHING I DON'T DESERVE. SOMETHING I CAN'T KEEP.
IF I COULD HAVE STOPPED MYSELF, I NEVER WOULD'VE COME TO YOU. IT WAS WRONG.
YOU'RE EVERYTHING I NEED, ELEKTRA. EVERYTHING I'VE EVER WANTED.
I KILLED FIVE MEN LAST WEEK.
ACTUALLY, ONE OF THEM WAS A WOMAN.
DON'T TALK CRAZY.
NO. OF COURSE YOU CAN'T BELIEVE ME.
I'M TIRED.
AND, LIKE A CAT--
--SHE SLEEPS.
I LOVE YOU, ELEKTRA.


AND, ON A DAY SO COLD IT TURNS TEARS TO ICE...
DO YOU SEE NOW, MATT? I LOVED POPPA-- AND SO HE DIED. HE HAD TO DIE. I WAS A PART OF HIM.
THEY KILLED HIM TO SHOW ME THIS.
WHO, ELEKTRA? WHO KILLED YOUR FATHER?
THE VOICES. THEY HAD TO SHOW ME WHAT I AM.
BUT I WON'T TAKE YOU WITH ME. YOU WOULD END UP DEAD-- OR WORSE. I WILL DO THIS MUCH RIGHT-- I WILL LEAVE YOU.
I WILL GO TO HELL ALONE.

THERE'S NO PERSUADING HER. NO CHANGING HER MIND.
NO WAY TO MAKE HER EXPLAIN.

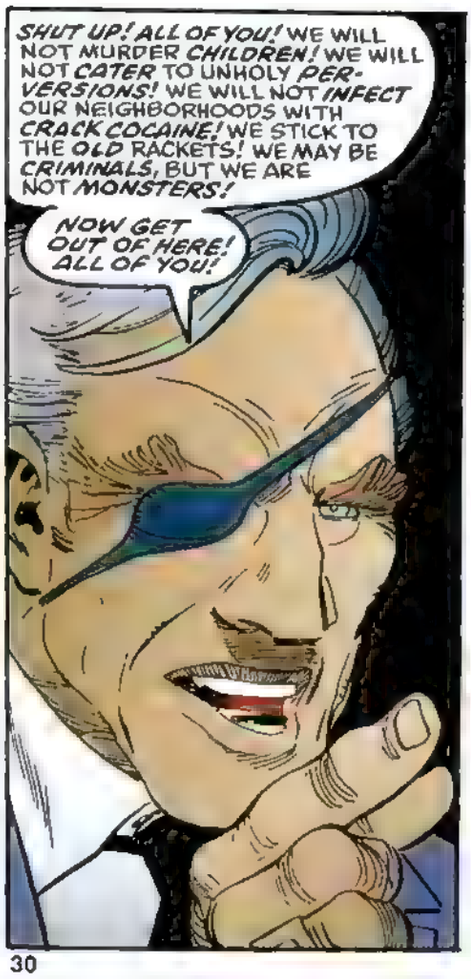

THERE IS ONLY ONE LAST MINUTE OF HUNGRY FIRE--
--AND SHE IS GONE.

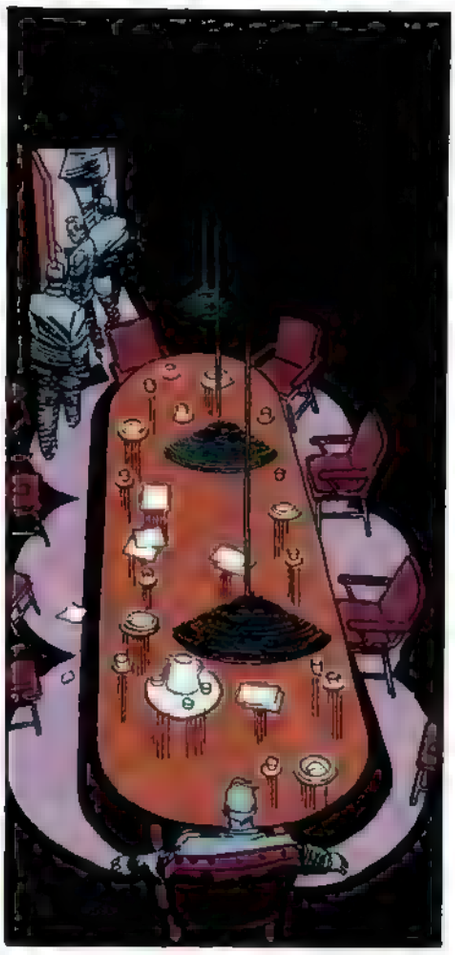

IN TIME, HE WILL LEARN OF THE WAR THAT BOTH SHE AND STICK ARE PART OF. IN TIME THEY WILL MEET AGAIN.
BUT FOR NOW HE IS ONLY A YOUNG MAN WITH A BROKEN HEART.


A YOUNG MAN ONCE AGAIN PUNISHED.
FOR LETTING HIS WILD PART RUN FREE.
FOR BREAKING THE RULES.

MATT'S OLD NEIGHBORHOOD. HELL'S KITCHEN.
A SUMMIT CONFERENCE--
--OF THE LEADERS OF THE MANHATTAN UNDERWORLD.

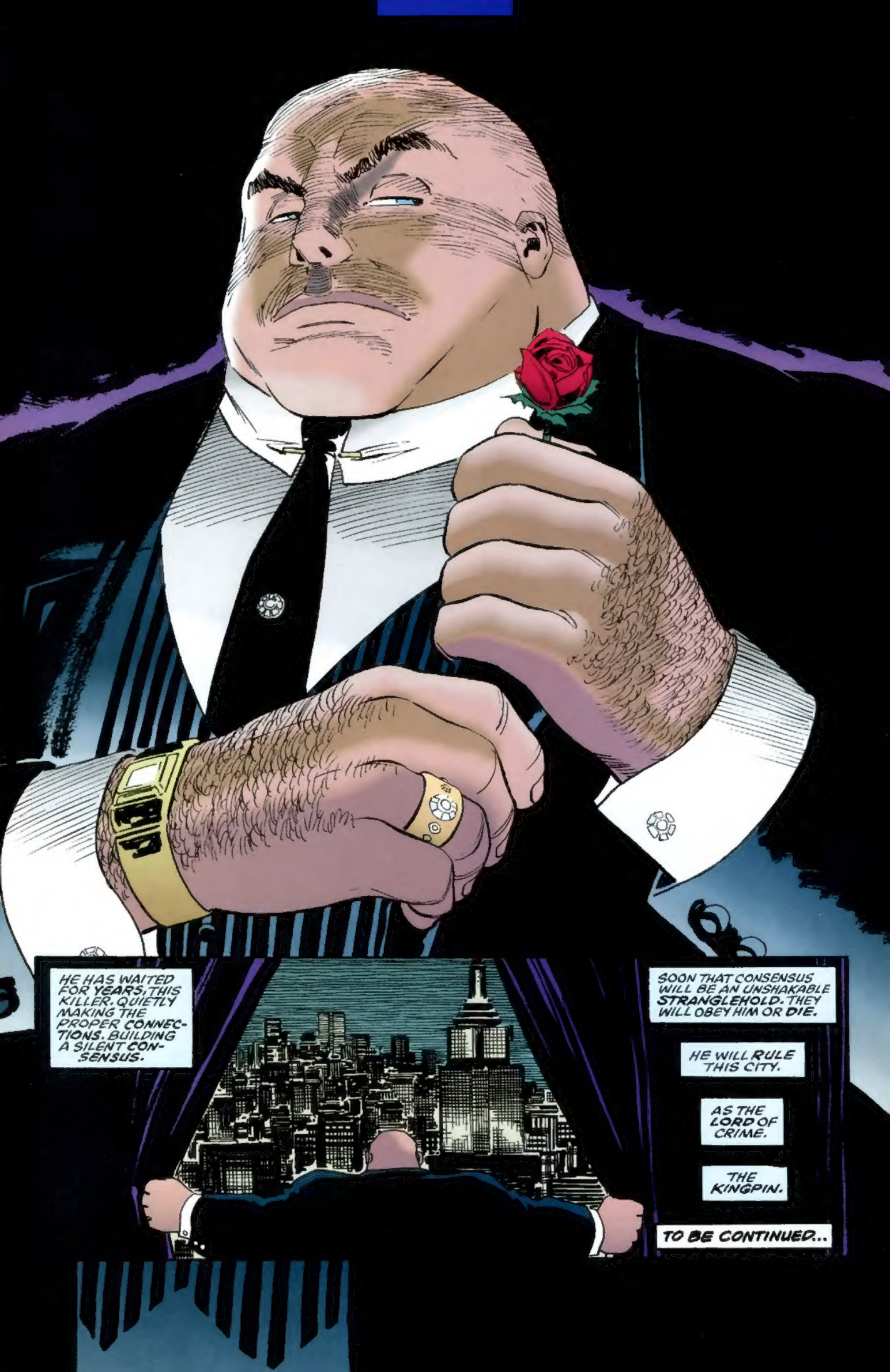
TIMES CHANGE, RIGOLETTO. WE GOT STREET KIDS OUT THERE COMPETING WITH US.
COMPETING, HELL. THEY'RE LEAVING US IN THE DUST--BECAUSE THEY KNOW WHAT PEOPLE WANT.
PLEASE LISTEN TO THEM, UNCLE. PROFITS ARE DOWN--
ENOUGH! I'LL HEAR NO MORE OF THIS!
BE REASONABLE, BOSS. WE'VE ALL GOT FAMILIES TO THINK OF. AND EMPLOYEES.
WHY THE SUDDEN MORALITY, RIGOLETTO? MONEY IS THERE TO BE MADE --AND I'M TALKING BILLIONS. WHY LET SMALLTIME PIMPS AND PUSHERS CLEAN UP, WHEN WE HAVE THE MACHINERY IN PLACE TO DO IT OURSELVES?


SHUT UP! ALL OF YOU! WE WILL NOT MURDER CHILDREN! WE WILL NOT CATER TO UNHOLY PERVERSIONS! WE WILL NOT INFECT OUR NEIGHBORHOODS WITH CRACK COCAINE! WE STICK TO THE OLD RACKETS! WE MAY BE CRIMINALS, BUT WE ARE NOT MONSTERS!
NOW GET OUT OF HERE! ALL OF YOU!



OH, MY FRIEND, MY FRIEND... THEY EXHAUST ME. THEY WOULD SELL AWAY OUR TRADITIONS--OUR HONOR. OUR OWN FAMILIES LIVE IN THIS CITY--AND THEY WOULD TURN IT INTO HELL ON EARTH...
MY FRIEND, I NEED YOUR HANDS...

AHHH...YES... THOSE STRONG, STRONG HANDS...
...CHILD PROSTITUTION. DESIGNER DRUGS. IT'S MADNESS. MADNESS...
...YES...THAT'S PERFECT...I DO HAVE A HEADACHE. YOU ALWAYS KNOW, DON'T YOU, MY SILENT, NAMELESS FRIEND...
...DAMN THEM ALL. THEY'D KILL ME IF THEY HAD THE CHANCE. YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE I CAN TRUST...
HUKK
SNAP!


HE HAS WAITED FOR YEARS, THIS KILLER. QUIETLY MAKING THE PROPER CONNECTIONS. BUILDING A SILENT CONSENSUS.
SOON THAT CONSENSUS WILL BE AN UNSHAKABLE STRANGLEHOLD. THEY WILL OBEY HIM OR DIE.
HE WILL RULE THIS CITY.
AS THE LORD OF CRIME.
THE KINGPIN.
TO BE CONTINUED...

NEXT ISSUE

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